



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 1, 2005

News Release

ICE DEPORTS FELON CONVICTED OF MURDER

TAMPA- A 65-year-old Mexican convicted of first-degree murder was deported yesterday to his home country by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

Ignacio Villarreal-Marin, who had been on the run and in hiding since 2002, was arrested at his residence by officers assigned to ICE's Fugitive Operations Task Force on March 23, 2005.

Villarreal-Marin was convicted of first-degree murder in 1986. According to police records, Villarreal-Marin shot a man at close range, killing him instantly. He also had other convictions ranging from aggravated battery with a firearm to domestic violence.

An immigration judge issued Villarreal-Marin a final order of removal on Nov. 21, 2002, but he ignored the judge's order.

"This cold-blooded murderer will no longer be a threat to our community," said Michael Rozos, Florida's field office director for detention and removal. "Heinous criminals like Villarreal-Marin will be found and deported."

These arrests are part of a national ICE initiative to arrest and remove fugitives in hiding who have been ordered deported from the country. The Miami Fugitive Operations Unit is one of 18 nationwide that has various teams of officers working these cases. Through its targeted enforcement efforts, ICE Miami has arrested approximately 400 fugitives since the beginning of fiscal year 05.

ICE's National Fugitive Operation Program (NFOP) was established on Feb. 25, 2002, making the apprehension of absconders, or fugitives, a priority, within the Department of Homeland Security. The primary mission of NFOP is to identify, locate, apprehend, process, and remove fugitive aliens from the United States.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.